

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 097047

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS STATE 097047

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PAGE 02 STATE 097047

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 21 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. ALL PAPERS FEATURE THIEU' S ANNOUNCEMENT OF EIGHT- YEAR
RECONSTRUCTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AND HIS

ASSERTION " DANGER OF THE RENEWAL OF WAR" APPEARS
RECEDING. NYT' S BUTTERFIELD SAYS PLAN WILL GIVE THIEU
PERSONAL CONTROL OVER ECON PLANNING AND GVN BUREAUCRACY.
SOME SUPPORTERS DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE ADMIN REFORMS APPEAR
GO FAR SHORTER THAN ANTICIPATED. ANALYSTS BELIEVE PLAN
WILL TOTAL \$4 BILLION, MOST FROM US.

2. ALL PAPERS REPORT US- DRV PARIS TALKS CONTINUE IN
SULLIVAN- THACH MEETING. NYT PARIS REPORTS VC SOURCE SAYS
US SUPPORT OF GVN HAS MADE IT UNWILLING MAKE CONCESSION
REQUIRED BY VN AGREEMENT. BOTH SIDES REPORTED STICKING
TO " HARD" INITIAL POSITIONS. POST' S RANDAL IN PARIS
REPORTS INFORMED SOURCES SAY FIRST THREE DAYS OF TALKS
HELD IN " VERY GOOD ATMOSPHERE." ALTHOUGH CAMBODIA DIS-
CUSSED, MOST EFFORT DEVOTED TO SPECIFIC SVN MILITARY
PROBLEMS.

3. RADIO HANOI CHARGES US PHOTO RECON FLIGHTS OVER THANH
HOA PROVINCE VIOLATE VN AGREEMENT AND " OBVIOUSLY HAVE A
NEGATIVE EFFECT" ON CURRENT PARIS TALKS (NYT, WP, SUN).

4. LOR NOL REPORTED PLANNING US MEDICAL TRIP SOON,
ACCORDING HIGH- RANKING GKR OFFICIAL. AP PP REPORTS
(NYT, PHINQ, SUN) HAIG HAD SUGGESTED TRIP DURING LAST PP
VISIT.

5. DOD OFFICIAL SAYS NEW INTELLIGENCE WILL RECLASSIFY
200 MIA TO KIA. MIA PARENT SAYS DOD OFFICIALS INDICATE
ALL MIA WILL BE RECLASSIFIED KIA WITHIN YEAR (WP).

6. ADA ELECTS REP. FRASER TO REPLACE LOWENSTEIN AS HEAD,
AND CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE END TO ALL US BOMBING IN
INDOCHINA PLUS WITHDRAWAL OF ALL US AIR AND NAVAL FORCES
(SUN).

7. WP SAYS IT HAS NO STRONG VIEWS ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
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PAGE 03 STATE 097047

HOUSE AND SENATE " WAR POWERS" BILLS, BUT CONSIDERS IT
VITAL CONGRESS WORK OUT LEGISLATION EVEN IN FACE OF LIKELY
PRESIDENTIAL VETO. CONCURS WITH JAVITS' STATEMENT THAT
WHAT IS FINALLY INVOLVED IS " FUNDAMENTAL PREMISE OF THE
CONSTITUTION, WITH ITS DELIBERATE SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND
BALANCES AND SEPARATION OF POWERS,... THAT IMPORTANT
DECISIONS MUST BE NATIONAL DECISIONS SHARED BY THE
PEOPLE' S REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS AS BY THE PRESIDENT."

8. WILLIAM S. WHITE (PHINQ) TAKES VIEW THAT WATERGATE
HAS EMBOLDENED DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS TO CHIP AWAY AT
PRESIDENTIAL WAR POWERS. SAYS, " THIS ESSENTIALLY UN-
CONSTITUTIONAL THRUST IS BORN OF AN IRRELEVANCY, SINCE
WHATEVER MAY HAVE HAPPENED IN THE WATERGATE AFFAIR HAS

NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH THE RIGHT OF THIS OR ANY OTHER PRESIDENT TO FULFILL HIS OBLIGATION AS COMMANDER- IN- CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES." IT IS IRRELEVANCY, SAYS WHITE, FED BY LOOSE COMMENTARIES FROM PROFESSIONAL " ANTIWAR ACTIVISTS" WHO BALDLY PROCLAIM THAT " WATERGATE CORRUPTION" IS CONNECTED AND INDEED INSEPARABLE FROM WHAT IS FALSELY CALLED " CORRUPTION" OF AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN SVN. THINKS SFRC PROPOSAL TO LET PRESIDENT COMMIT ARMED FORCES FOR ONLY 30 DAYS WITHOUT ADVANCE CONSENT OF CONGRESS, AND EVEN THEN ONLY TO REPEL PHYSICAL ATTACK ON US, IS FATEFUL DEPARTURE FROM CONSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE THAT SHOULD DISTURB EVERY RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN.

9. ANTHONY LEWIS (NYT) DEPLORES HAK' S ROLE IN WIRE- TAPPING OF HIS OWN STAFF MEMBERS. OBSERVES THAT HAK' S PLAUSIBILITY HAD ENABLED HIM TO PLAY LARGE ROLE IN ADVANCING " EXTREMELY DANGEROUS NOTION THAT WHAT THE PRESIDENT WANTS IS ABOVE THE LAW." RECALLS THAT BEFORE LEAVING FOR PARIS TALKS,

HAK PLEADED FOR MORE CONGRESSIONAL TOLERATION OF BOMBING IN CAMBODIA, FOR IT WAS OUR ONLY WAY TO MAKE NVN COMPLY WITH VN AGREEMENT. THERE IN CONCENTRATED FORM WAS DISREGARD FOR FACT AND LAW THAT HAS SO WOUNDED THIS COUNTRY. BY ACCOUNTS OF EMBASSY PP, CAMBODIA IS OVER- WHELMINGLY CIVIL WAR. WE INTERVENED TO KEEP LOSING SIDE AFLOAT; IT IS US THAT IS MOST MASSIVELY VIOLATING CALL UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 097047

FOR END TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION - AND VIOLATING US CONSTITUTION EVERY DAY. HISTORY WILL CREDIT HAK FOR RAPPROCHEMENT WITH CHINA AND SOVIET; BUT HE WILL ALSO GO DOWN AS SALESMAN FOR AN ENDLESS WAR.

10. LAT' S FOISIE, IN BANGKOK, REPORTS THAT ON ORDERS FROM PENTAGON, CORRESPONDENTS HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOWED VISIT US BASES IN THAILAND SINCE JAN. 28 C- F. WITH NO OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED CONTACT BETWEEN US CORRESPONDENTS AND ABOUT 45,000 US SERVICEMEN IN THAILAND FOR LAST FOUR MONTHS, HE SAYS, USAF HAS BEEN ABLE HIDE DETAILS OF ITS BOMBING EFFORTS IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS. CORRESPONDENTS SEEKING ADMISSION TO BASES, AS ALTERNATIVE TO SNEAK VISITS OR TO SEEING PILOTS AT NEARBY THAI TOWNS, HAVE ALWAYS HAD PROBLEM IN THAILAND. IN PREVIOUS YEARS, EMBASSY AND MILITARY COMMAND POSITION HAS BEEN THAT IT WAS RTG WHICH WAS REJECTING REQUESTS TO ENTER WHAT ARE TECHNICALLY THAI BASES. BUT IT WAS LEARNED THAT RTG IS NO LONGER DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WRITE ABOUT AMERICANS IN THAILAND. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR UNGER OUT- RANKS GENERAL VOGT ON DIPLOMATIC- MILITARY MATTERS, UNGER INDICATED IN RECENT LETTER THAT JUDGMENT ON WHEN, AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES, CORRESPONDENTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED INTO BASES, NOW RESTS WITH COL. BURKE AND HIS " CHANNELS."

BURKE HANDPICKED BY DOD TO DAMPEN NEWS REPORTING ON LINGERING US INVOLVEMENT IN SEA. CORRESPONDENTS HAVE AGREED TO PRESENCE OF PROS AT ALL TIMES WHEN ON BASES, BUT EVEN THIS SAFEGUARD HAS BEEN UNACCEPTABLE TO MILITARY COMMAND.

11. CSM' S DANA SCHMIDT DISCUSSES US- FUNDED THAI IRREGULARS IN LAOS, CONCERNING WHICH AMBASSADOR GODLEY " LIFTED THE VEIL IN PART" AT SFRC HEARINGS. NOTES USG CONTENTION IT IS ENTITLED UNDER LAW TO OPERATE SUCH AN ARMY, IN SPITE OF LAW BARRING SUPPORT OF THIRD COUNTRY FORCES IN LAOS, BECAUSE THAIS ARE " VOLUNTEERS" SERVING UNDER RLG COMMAND AND THEREFORE QUALIFY AS LOCAL FORCES. CITES DOD, DOS AND CAPITOL HILL SOURCES IN PORTRAYING THAI IRREGULARS, WHO, SCHMIDT SAYS, HAVE MILITARILY GIVEN GOOD ACCOUNT OF THEMSELVES AND ARE CONSIDERED MORE NEARLY ABLE TO

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PAGE 05 STATE 097047

STAND UP TO TOUGH N VIETNAMESE THAN LAO REGULARS. RUSH

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